

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: January 30, 2008

1: Call to order

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: Laura Epke, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Stanley Zeramby, Deb Pallasch, Diane Harris, Bob Koohy Absent: Richard Joslin

2: Approval of minutes

Motion made by L. Epke, seconded by R. Medeiros, to approve minutes for Jan. 23, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Input

None

4. Preliminary Commission discussion re: input for proposed changes

Correspondence from Paul Northrup (prior Tiverton Town Administrator) regarding his recommendations/thoughts re: budget process provided to commission members by F. Marshall. See attached.

Discussion FTM alternatives:

- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by D. Pallasch, to remove option #3 “Elected Officials Approve Own Budgets with Referendum Failsafe” from list of FTM alternatives. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by D. Pallasch, to remove option #6 “Representative FTM” from list of FTM alternatives. Motion passed unanimously.
- Correction made to #4 “Grand Committee” to *include* BC in process. F. Marshall recommendation of composition would be:
 - 3 members of TC, 1 member of SC, Treasurer, Town Clerk and 1 BC member - the Chair would be the Chair of the TC)

Upon Further discussion is agreed by consensus the Budget Committee would be retained in any alternative presented.

- Motion by D. Pallasch, seconded by L. Epke, to remove option #2a “Town Council Budget Approval with Referendum Failsafe, with *no* BC” from list of FTM alternatives. Motion passed unanimously

- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by D. Pallasch, to remove option #5 “Budget Committee Approval” from list of FTM alternatives. Motion passed unanimously
- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by R. Medeiros, to remove option #1 “All Day Referendum” from list of FTM alternatives. Motion passed with L. Epke, F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, S. Zeramby, D. Pallasch, B. Koohy, and C. Leonard in favor. D. Harris opposed.

Remaining options to FTM are:

1. Town Council Budget Approval: Referendum Failsafe w/ Budget Committee review
2. Grand Committee Budget Approval: Referendum Failsafe w/ Budget Committee review

Other:

- Motion to add "Require by charter that bond issue payments may not be excluded from the calculation of the maximum tax increase, as currently allowed by state if payment exceeds allowable percentage increase." to working document by C. Leonard, seconded by D. Harris.

In favor: F. Marshall, R. Medeiros, S. Zeramby, C. Leonard, B. Koohy, D. Harris in favor. Opposed: D. Pallasch, L. Epke

- Continued consideration of Mr. Teitz’s suggested review items to the next meeting.
- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by D. Pallasch, to add bullet to #1 of working document to “clarify and refine budget process”. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business

Chair distributed previous TC memo prepared by Mr. Teitz relating to Charter section 1213 (to be reviewed in conjunction with Teitz items at next meeting).

Noted that the recent press release appeared in both the Projo and Sakonnet Times.

6. Adjournment

The Commission’s January 30, 2008 regular meeting was adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.